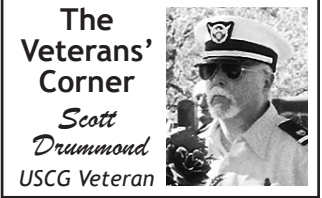


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Monday, 6 June 2016

In hopes that you remembered those many soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen "scared out of their wits", who were nevertheless dedicated, patriotic, loving, and sometimes "wild" young men and women, embarking on "D" Day, 6 June only 72 years ago. Many who became our fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts and grandparents gave so much, sacrificed so much; many dying. WW II cost us more than 400,000 lives. "D" Day was extremely instrumental in terminating that horrific assault upon our civilized world. Those who came home are as humble, decent and are of one of the greatest generation of real Americans as we have ever known. They have been my mentors. Not meant to take away any honor or credit for any Veteran of any generation, but these kind, wonderful, wise and loving folks, are never to be forgotten, nor is any of their missions or exploits they accomplished, many of which, like "D" day were against unfathomable evil and deemed almost impossible, versus overwhelming odds.



**The Veterans' Corner**  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran

Monday, June 6th, marked the 72nd anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Allied troops went forth from England on planes and ships, made a precarious trip across the English Channel in order to attack the beaches of Normandy in an almost impossible attempt to break through Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" and break his death grip on Europe. 215,000 Allied soldiers or more, and roughly as many Germans, were killed or wounded during D-Day during the next nearly three months it took to secure the Allied capture of Normandy. Commemoration events, from re-enactments to school concerts, are usually held in seaside towns and along the five landing beaches that stretch across 50 miles of Normandy coastline. World leaders, officials from many nations, diplomats, and other visitors usually attend this event.

This second paragraph was excerpted and edited from an article e-mailed me by Mr. Al Henderson, previously of Central, SC. He was truly a wonderful Patriot who spent 31 years in our United States Air Force, retired as Chief Master Sergeant, knew more about world history than most of us will ever know, and who was called Home to be in God's "Air Force" on 17 December 2010. I have saved almost all of our correspondence on my PC. We miss him, his stories, easy going nature, and shared wisdom. Thank you Al for reminding me of "D" Day; I'll see you again one day! Thanks to all our Veterans, who are well aware of what today is and who honor this "D" Day, 2016 recognition of those who "saved our globe".

If you know any WW II Veterans, those who led the way and sacrificed so much for America, love them. Honor them and do some research on the detailed history of "D" Day. You will be amazed by what plain, simple young Americans accomplished facing impossible odds, but never faltered and kept going until the job was done.

*Semper Paratus*

## Struggling to Understand

I've never been more thankful for the privilege of living where and how we live, here in our small mountain communities. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the people brutally murdered in Orlando this past weekend.

We struggle to understand this demented horror, and that struggle is made even more difficult by tabloid media frenzy in a nation where people have forgotten what the term, "yellow journalism" means, because that type of sensationalism has been the norm for many years now.

In the coming weeks we will endure the exhausting and mind numbing process that now accompanies every horror: The same scenes will be replayed over and over. Opinions will be recycled and regurgitated. Every local newscast will carry "live" reports from the now empty sidewalks of Orlando. We will watch as the politicians spin the tragedy towards their own separate goals. We will hear more argument about gun control. We will hear opinions based on fear and hatred, condemning all things Muslim, while others will hide their heads in the sand, going out of their way to avoid saying what must now be obvious to anyone sifting fact from the din of opinion.

Yes, this is about religion. I realize that making that statement invites the wrath of the politically correct, but the American born terrorist who swore allegiance to the Daesh before killing 50 people in Orlando, was not making a "political" statement. The Iman speaking of the murders in Orlando saying that gays must be killed out of "compassion," was not talking about politics.

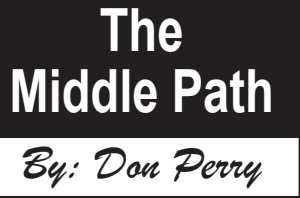
From the President of the United States to the safe-space-violated complainer on Facebook and Twitter, the unwillingness to use the term, "Radical Islam," continues to make it difficult for Americans to understand the conflict in which we are engaged. When the heavily armed Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas were dominating the headlines, we were able to separate their fringe beliefs from the broad umbrella of Christianity under which they originated. When Eric Rudolph was taken away to prison, we did not condemn all of Christianity for his fringe beliefs, but we did not shrink from the knowledge that religious belief was at the root of his evil.

We do not condemn all Muslims because of the monster in Orlando, but we ignore his religious beliefs at our own peril. Dutch commentator, Leon de Winter, writes, "Almost 60 percent of Europe's Muslims reject homosexuals as friends and 45 percent think that Jews cannot be trusted. More than half believe that the West is out to destroy Islam." Professor Ruud Koopmans of the Berlin Social Science Center, writing about European Muslims said, "Almost 60 percent agree that Muslims should return to the roots of Islam, 75 percent think there is only one interpretation of the Quran possible, to which every Muslim should stick, and 65 percent say that religious rules are more important to them than the laws of the country in which they live."

Though religion is clearly at the root of Omar Mateen's psychotic killings, the usual camps are already posturing for an argument about gun control. Mateen, who was being monitored by the FBI, who had been interviewed by the FBI three times, was still able to legally purchase the weapons he used to kill innocent people.

As a former Marine who grew up hunting and target shooting in a family proud of our Second Amendment rights, I am not threatened by laws which keep guns out of the hands of people like Omar Mateen. I do not support the "right" of religious nuts to buy AR-15s. I don't think the president has a secret plan to disarm Americans. However, Mr. Obama's refusal to acknowledge or address the problem of radical Islam is helping to prevent this nation from coming to terms with the problem.

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By: Don Perry

## Voles!

Many of you have started to notice holes in the ground throughout your flower beds and vegetable gardens. While I have already written about one potential culprit (moles), it is important to understand the second possible pest: voles. While moles are typically pests in the lawn, they do not eat plant material. Voles, however, are notorious for destroying entire root systems of plants and sometimes whole gardens. It is important to catch them quickly before their populations increase and make sure they do not reestablish.

Also known as "meadow mice," voles are small mammals that range in size from three to five inches and only weigh about two ounces when they are fully grown. They are not actually mice, and you can tell the difference between the two because voles have short tails, short legs, and partially hidden ears. In their natural environment, they are important food sources for predators such as owls, foxes, hawks and snakes. The lifespan of these little pests is only about two months in the wild, but they can do an extensive amount of damage in that time.

Voles eat a variety of plants, such as legumes, grasses, ornamental shrubs, and even the bark of some trees. They prefer to gnaw on roots, especially bulbs, but have been known to graze on other parts of plants. Even when they do not eat enough of a root system to kill crops, damaged plants become weak and susceptible to many fungal and bacterial infections.

Unlike moles, voles typically live in colonies which is why there can be so many of them in such a short amount of time. There are typically several main chambers, or dens, in their colony and they are connected by a vast network of underground tunnels. Voles also create several exit tunnels they use when they come to the surface to graze on seeds and grains. These exits are the holes that we see throughout gardens and are the best location to target when trying to control voles that have run rampant.

Though vole and mole repellants are easy to find, they have not proven to be effective in most circumstances. There are also a variety of baits that are available. However, many rodenticides can also harm humans, pets and other non-target wildlife. The safest and most efficient management method for voles in the garden is to trap the existing population and then take measures to exclude them. To trap voles, locate an exit tunnel and place a mouse trap baited with peanut butter and sunflower seeds at the entrance. Place a dark container, such as a plastic pot or bucket, over both the trap and hole to obscure any light. This will prevent the vole from seeing the trap when it exits the tunnel, and it will go straight for the bait. Check traps every day or two and reset them as needed.

Once you have eliminated the existing population, you can begin to take measures to prevent them from coming back. Voles take shelter in mulch and tall grass, so remove excessive groundcover and keep lawns mowed regularly. If voles do not feel safe and sheltered in an area, they will not establish. Also, protect young trees with cylinders of hardware cloth as voles like to chew on bark during the winter months when there are not as many grazing options.

Because voles reproduce at such high rates, there will always be potential for them to establish in our gardens. Always check your garden for signs of vole activity and try to prevent the problem before it starts!



From the Ground Up  
Melissa Mattee

## Letters to The Editor

**Editor:**  
Now that the platitudes and expressions of gratitude of Memorial Day have been proudly and well-deservedly observed, let's do something really more meaningful and more significant: let's have our community and business leaders, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, assist returning veterans with securing re-training and employment. Frankly, it's the right thing to do and truly show that after all is said and done, this time more is done than said.

*Claude Spears*

**Editor:**  
There is a lot of lying, innuendo and misconceptions circulating in Towns County concerning the Mountain Movers & Shakers. This letter serves to set the record straight and inform the citizens of the county what Movers and Shakers is all about.

First, Movers & Shakers (M&S) is a group of people meeting together. They do not have members, a constitution, bylaws, officers, a checking account or any of the other trappings of an organized group.

- Movers and Shakers exists for the following reasons:
1. To educate attendees and the community on topics of direct concern to the citizens of Towns County.
  2. To increase political awareness.
  3. To improve the community and make the county a better place to live.
  4. To work with the school system and citizens of Towns in fostering a better climate and providing increased opportunities for the youth of our county to be adequately prepared for life.

Movers and Shakers has never endorsed nor will it ever support individual candidates for public office.

M&S, although its attendees are noticeably conservative in philosophy, maintains a non-partisan posture. Weekly meetings are open to everyone of any political persuasion, religious affiliation, color, creed, etc.

Finances for its numerous undertakings are obtained by passing the hat, fund-raising projects and direct eyeball to eyeball solicitations.

Over the years, M&S participants have logged thousands of hours of community service, provided thousands of dollars for various community projects and have individually been involved with assorted political campaigns.

Weekly meetings are held every Friday morning at 8 AM at Mary's Southern Restaurant. Meetings consist of prayer, breakfast, announcements and generally a speaker or two. Occasionally the meeting is devoted to fellowship and discussion of upcoming projects.

Speakers come from all walks of life. Movers and Shakers welcomes any speaker with the desire to share what his/her organization is doing in Towns County and the surrounding areas. During political contests, Republicans, Democrats and Independents have addressed the group. Winners of speech contests have delivered their speeches at the meeting. Students have introduced the Lt. Governor and other elected officials.

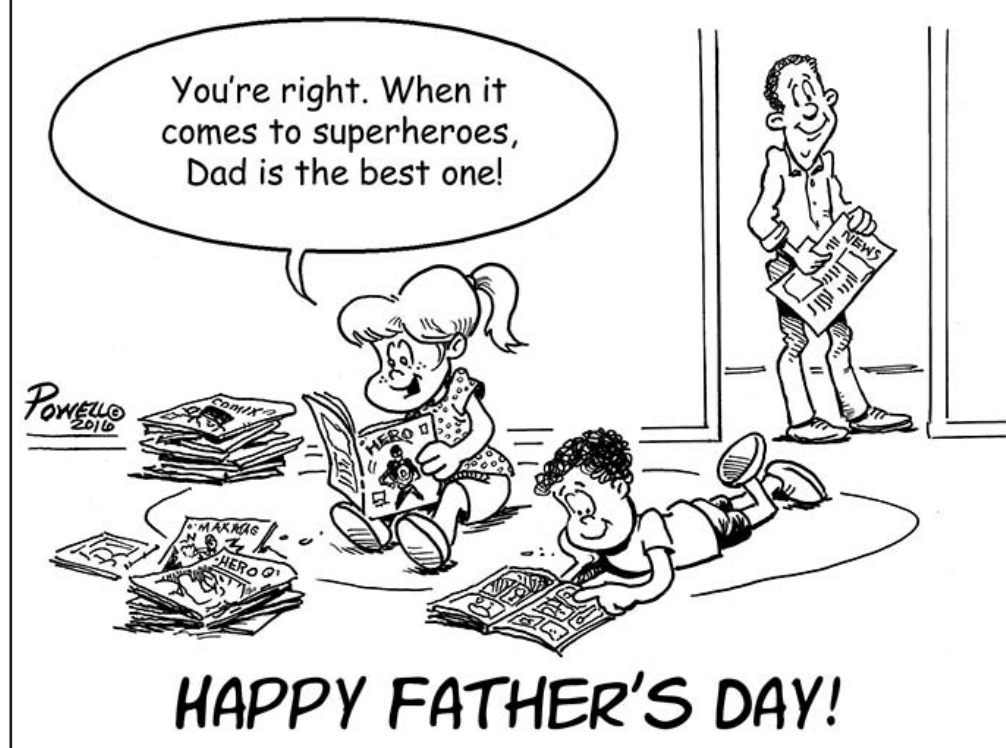
Since there are no officers, a different person each week acts as MC and conducts the meeting.

An email list is maintained of persons who have attended M&S meetings. This list is used solely to alert attendees of upcoming events, speakers and projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to present the true reason for the existence of Mountain Movers & Shakers and what they are about in serving Towns County.

You are invited to attend our meetings every Friday at 8 AM.

*Gary W. Meier*



## GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write.

Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald

Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net.

Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*

*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*

## Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Every Monday:	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Brasstown Manor	12:30 pm
	Village Condos Clubhouse	
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	5 pm
	Second Friday of each month:	
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am

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## Towns County Herald

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